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Seeks Unity - Independently

Invasion Leader Splits With Exiles

By AL BURT

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Manuel Artime, leader of the Cuban invaders Wednesday revealed plans apparently designed to make him an independent political power among the exiles.

Artime announced that the invaders, known as Brigade 2506, will be invited to join the U.S. Army.

But he said he will remain here and work independently for exile unity.

The U.S. move to recruit the invaders into the Army seems to be a Washington policy decision to forestall formation of the invaders as a new political unit.

The brigade was the military arm of the Cuban Revolution

and Council, which Artime was designed to pull exile groups into one affiliated body. It has U.S. support.

The council has urged all members to join the Army.

Artime's decision positions him now as independent of the council and thus of the brigade.

Dr. Jose Miró Cardona, head of the council, declined comment on Artime's statements.

Artime, 29, personable, articulate, forceful and sometimes accused of being overly ambitious, before the invasion was leader of the Movement for Revolutionary Reform and as such had a seat on the council. During his 20 months in prison, the MRR replaced him.

Back in Miami, he did not again become the MRR representative on the council.

Artime denied that he is forming a new group. "I propose only the understanding of all Cubans, not the creation of a political group."

But he added: "I would be glad to give up my membership in the MRR if all the groups reach an understanding."

He did not feel the new U.S. office to coordinate Cuban affairs just opened here would affect his plans. "We Cubans should set our own strategy," he said. "We should not depend on any office."

"I will see all the groups in town to have them try to reach an understanding. We have to do something to pressure for international happenings."

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